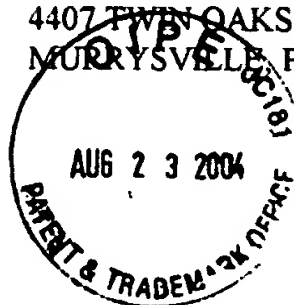


KLAUS J. BACH & ASSOCIATES
PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
4407 TWIN OAKS DRIVE
MURRYSVILLE, PA 15668 USA

TEL: 724-327-0664
FAX: 724-327-0004

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Frank Duvinage, et al.

Serial No.: 09/929,961

Filing Date: 15/08/01

Docket: MB 406

Title: EXHAUST-GAS CLEANING UNIT WITH PARTICLE FILTER AND
NITROGEN OXYGEN STORE, AND OPERATING METHOD THEREFOR

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
2004
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 17,

SIR:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - SECTION 1.97 (b)

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicants' representative hereby submits U.S. Patent & Trademarks Office Form PTO-1449. Copies of the references cited therein are submitted for consideration in the examination of the above- referenced patent application. It is respectfully requested that they be made of record, along with whatever references the Examiner may find in the course of a search, should the Examiner consider them material to the subject application.

In accordance with Section 1.97(b) (3), it is believed that this Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

In accordance with Section 1.97(e) (1), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained herein was cited for the first time in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement.

The references were cited in the preliminary search report of the corresponding French application.

It appears however that none of the references discloses an exhaust cleaning system wherein a nitrogen oxide storage device is arranged upstream of a particle filter so that, during a nitrogen oxide regeneration phase using rich exhaust gas composition and an extended sulfur regeneration phase at an elevated exhaust gas temperature and a soot removal phase with a lean exhaust gas composition provided intermittently in a predetermined sequence, all three contaminants can be effectively and efficiently removed from the exhaust system.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Bach', written in a cursive style.

Klaus Bach
Registration No. 26,832

